

Establishment of District Rural Development Agencies in Gujarat

1995. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has established District Rural Development Agencies like that of Maharashtra;

(b) if not, whether Government would ask them to follow suit; and

(c) the details of the amount Central Government contributes towards pension and gratuity to be paid to the employees of the above agencies?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Common guidelines have been issued to all the States/UTs, except Delhi and Chandigarh for DRDA organisation and its administration. According to the guidelines, every district will have its own DRDA. DRDAs in Gujarat have been established in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of India.

(c) As per the guidelines, the DRDAs do not have provision for permanent staff. The staff for DRDA is to be taken on deputation basis from other departments. The question of payment of pension to the staff of the DRDA, therefore, does not arise.

Land Degradation

1996. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many hectares of land in the country is degraded and how many hectares of land is under the threat of degradation; and

(b) what are the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the land degradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The process of soil erosion and land degradation resulting into degraded lands/wastelands occur due to faulty cultivation practices, deterioration due to lack of

appropriate soil and water management, natural and environmental causes etc. As per the 'Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000' brought out by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using Remote Sensing Technologies, the total extent of the wastelands/degraded lands in the country is 63.85 m. ha. So far no study has been conducted for estimating the area under the threat of degradation.

(b) The main Programmes/Schemes of central Government for preventing land degradation and putting such lands into sustainable productive use are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of Projects being implemented by various Central Ministries/
Departments for Development of degraded lands/Wastelands

1. Ministry of Rural Development

- (i) Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)
- (ii) Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET) Scheme
- (iii) Investment Promotional Scheme (IPS)
- (iv) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)
- (v) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

2. Ministry of Agriculture

- (i) Soil conservation for enhancing the productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVPs) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)
- (ii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS)
- (iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
- (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in North Eastern States.

3. Ministry of Environment & Forests

- (i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project (IAEP)
- (ii) Area Oriented Fuel wood and Fodder Projects (AOFFP)
- (iii) Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Afforestation and Tree Planting

4. Planning Commission

- (i) Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP)

Employment opportunities in Assam

1997. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the allocations made by Government to generate rural employment opportunities in Assam during the last five years; and
- (b) what efforts have been made by Government during the Ninth Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) (erstwhile Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) (erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme and allied programmes) are the major programmes being implemented by the Government to generate rural employment opportunities. These schemes have been restructured during the Ninth Plan to make them more effective in employment generation. The details of allocation made for these programmes in Assam for the last five years are as under:

	(Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	74.39
1997-98	166.03
1998-99	257.04
1999-2000	147.55
2000-2001	251.96